REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-53 and 65-68 remain in the specification. Claims 69-71 have been canceled, and claims 5, 29, 34, 36, and 44 have been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications to any previously claimed subject matter.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-27, 29-33, 35, 37-43, 45, 46, and 65 are allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 69-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

One of ordinary skill in the art could readily practice the methods of treatment or imaging claimed in view of the detailed disclosure in the specification and knowledge generally available in the art.

Applicant has canceled claims 69-71 solely to promote prosecution, without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any previously claimed subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 28, 34, 36, 44, 47-53, and 66-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection to the extent that they are applied to the amended claims.

In claim 28, the Examiner has objected to the term "about" as indefinite. All that is required under § 112, ¶ 2 is that the claims set out and circumscribe a particular area that the applicant regards as the invention with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity. Further, it must be looked through the eyes of those of ordinary skill in the art. In claim 28, the applicant has circumscribed the length of angstoms as being between about 20 and about 500 angstroms. See also the discussion on page 17, second full paragraph of the application. The term "about" in reference to a range does not necessarily make a claim indefinite, and in fact,

there are numerous examples of patents issued by the U.S. Patent Office wherein "about" has been used with respect to a range in a claim. The term "about" in claim 28 would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the description in the specification and knowledge generally available in the art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant has amended claim 34 in view of the Examiner's suggestions. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 36 has been amended to delete "about 1". Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Claim 44 also has been amended to promote prosecution. It is noted that claims 66-67 are clear in that the molecule further includes a group comprising Gd-157.

Claims 69 and 70 have been canceled to promote prosecution, without prejudice.

In view of the above remarks, withdrawal of the rejections under § 112 is respectfully requested.

IDS References

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner struck out certain references submitted in the previously filed IDS. These references are being resubmitted for consideration under a separate cover.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance based on the foregoing amendments and remarks and earnestly solicit a prompt Notice of Allowance from the Patent Office.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees not provided herewith, or credit any overpayment associated with this filing to Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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